



ROBERT K. PAGANI
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005

RICHARD J. CLEARY
ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
VAUGHN E. GERBER
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO

Members Present: Robert K. Pagani-Chairman, Richard J. Cleary, Robert J. Clements, Mark A. Joyse, Barry C. Pinto (arr. 8:45).

Members Absent: Vaughn E. Gerber

Others Present: N. DiCorleto-Fin Off, D. Roberson-Chmn BOE, High School Students

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:20 pm.

Citizen's Forum

No one came forward.

Election of Chairman

The Clerk opened the floor for nominations.

Mark Joyse nominated Robert Pagani as chairman, Richard Cleary seconded.

No other nominations were offered. Motion (Joyse) seconded (Cleary) and passed to close nominations.

Vote for Robert Pagani as chairman unanimously approved. Pagani abstained.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

Board of Education – Superintendent Search

Dale Roberson, Chairman of the Board of Education addressed the Board regarding the need to hire a new superintendent. Dr. Packman will be leaving at the end of this fiscal year 6/30/05. The Board of Education has in the past been involved in the hiring process for the new principals and for teachers. However, the superintendent is the highest paid position in Town and the Board feels that this should be a special person, the right person for the Town of Ellington, and someone who is going to stay and have some longevity with the Town as Dr. Packman and Dr. Delucia both had. The Board of Education looked into hiring a search firm to do the preliminary screening. They feel that a professional firm has the resources to find the most qualified individuals and also would have the privacy and confidentiality that some candidates may be looking for in this type of search. The Board of Education interviewed three firms and they all came back with a figure of between \$17,000-\$20,000. A good portion of the fee is for advertisement which the Town would have to do anyway. The Board of Education will be meeting tomorrow night to decide which firm to hire.

Rick Cleary stated that his experience with search firms is that they charge a percentage of the salary of the person hired. Another comment was that when the final candidates get to the Board of Education for interviewing, there will be no more complete privacy. He also asked how the search firm will know what the town needs.

Mr. Roberson stated that these firms gave the Board of Education quotes for fees for services and not a percentage. He also stated that the final serious candidates know that at some point they will be in the public domain. The search firm will meet with focus groups to determine just what the town is looking for in a candidate.

Mr. Joyse stated that he agreed with this approach. He felt that a professional firm would have more resources for attracting qualified candidates and also recognizes that the Board of Education is a volunteer board consisting of lay people and not professionals at interviewing, etc. This takes many hours of time.

Mr. Roberson also indicated that the professional firm does several background checks and checks the credentials of the prospective candidates.

Mr. Roberson then brought up the fact that the fuel short fall is projected to be \$200,000 and that energy conservation measures are being implemented. The present fuel oil price is locked in at \$2.14 per gallon. He stated that the special education account is also a very volatile account and if one more special needs child moves into town, this account will have a shortfall.

Mr. Joyse stated that it may be a good idea to stagger the locked in prices through the year so that the town is paying an average price. He feels that the Board of Education should present their budget so that the townspeople can see where they are working to save money. He feels that the Board of Education may be wasting their time if they are worrying about energy prices and that someone on the town side of the budget should be responsible. Mr. Roberson stated that he would take all the comments back to the Board of Education and that Mr. Littizzio is the one working with the fuel companies to lock in the prices.

Mr. Pagani stated that Mr. Littizzio and Mr. Michaud work together to lock in the fuel prices. He also told Mr. Roberson that he found in the oldest portion of Windermere School there were two entry doors that are used constantly and do not have air locks. He asked the contractor for a price to do it but hasn't heard back yet. He stated that the town may want to participate in this way to help with the energy costs.

Financial Statements

Mr. DiCorleto stated that the financials mailed out were as of October; however the November Building Dept figures show 46 new homes since July, 2005 which is an increase from last year by 9 homes.

Mr. Pagani stated that the Tax Collector is having a hard time collecting the garbage bills. There is no recourse for service bills and she cannot put a lien on a property for this. In some cases it is costing more to collect on these invoices than the invoice amount.

The High School audit contract has been signed for Phase I, and the Finance Officer has his spread sheets ready.

New Business

2006-07 Budget Guidelines

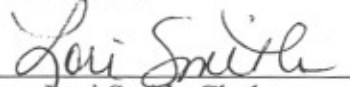
There was discussion about this and a 1% increase seemed acceptable. Mr. Joyse would like to see the budget be agreeable to the taxpayers on the first pass. All agreed. Mr. DiCorleto warned about people voting no on the budget but wanting to donate to special interest projects. The budget is for the whole town. Somebody should take a stand on this. Mr. Joyse stated that the pay for play and parking fee is an example of this; it may not be the best but the only alternative sometimes. People feel the cuts when they have to pay extra for things that were cut out of the budget. Mr. Pagani feels that the feeling of community suffers. Mr. Clements feels that the requests are so far apart from the ability to pay, that we have to deal with the "must haves" first just as we have been doing.

Mr. Cleary brought up the letter from the Crystal Lake Fire Dept.'s attorney. He was very disappointed to see this and is looking forward to the Crystal Lake Fire Dept. budget. The Board of Finance only wants to know what they are doing with their services and has asked for an accounting of their income. There is no town entity that does not report their income to the town. They are subject to the same rules and regulations that the rest of the town is under and should submit an accounting. Mr. Clements feels that it was a matter of communication and they may have taken the request the wrong way. He feels it is not as big a problem as it looks. Mr. Joyse stated that the last emergency services committee meeting is tomorrow night. The whole matter started when the Center Fire Dept. wanted to know the protocol that the Crystal Lake Fire Dept was using. The Board of Finance feels that all emergency services should use the same procedures.

Adjournment

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:45 PM.

Submitted by


Lori Smith, Clerk